



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

383 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

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JOANNE STURGES, ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER
(213) 974-1411

April 11, 2006

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING ALLOCATION OF REWARD FUNDS IN THE MATTER OF THE FATAL SHOOTING OF JAMES RAMOS (ALL DISTRICTS)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Approve the recommendation of the Reward Committee to distribute reward funds in amount of \$10,000 to be paid from the Board's discretionary funds to the individual who provided information to the Sheriff's Department which led to the arrest and conviction of Juan Tovar and Anne Marie Harrison, the persons responsible for the murder of James Ramos, who was gunned down outside his home in the 16300 block of Canelones Drive, City of Hacienda Heights on Tuesday, March 2, 2004, at approximately 3:15 a.m.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department submitted a claim for the \$10,000 reward offered by your Board on behalf of an informant who wishes to remain anonymous. The investigators believe very strongly that without the help of the informant this case would still be unsolved. In accordance with the provisions of the County Code, your Board must now consider the claim and make a final determination for distribution of the reward funds.

In 1993, the Board of Supervisors adopted an amendment to the County Code that established procedures for offering cash rewards for information leading to the apprehension and/or conviction of persons guilty of criminal acts. Your Board, from time to time has offered such rewards to encourage citizens to come forward and assist law enforcement with their investigations.

A panel made up of individuals representing the Sheriff, the Chief Administrative Officer, the County Counsel and the Executive Officer of the Board reviewed the claim filed for the reward funds. The panel has recommended that \$10,000 be awarded to the informant based on the following information presented to the Reward Committee:

- On Tuesday, March 2, 2004, at approximately 3:15 a.m. in the 16300 block of Canelones Drive, 51-year-old James Ramos was gunned down outside his Hacienda Heights home, in an apparent "drive by" gang shooting.
- On April 6, 2004, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, your Board established a \$10,000 reward fund for any information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for shooting and murdering of James Ramos. The case was assigned to Sheriff's Homicide Investigators Lusk and Mc Elderry.
- After numerous reward extensions, with the last being approved by the Board on December 14, 2004, an individual came forward on March 31, 2005 and provided Investigators with sufficient second-hand information relative to the case to make it obvious to the detectives the information was accurate. The informant also accompanied the investigators in an unmarked van and directed them to the house of one of the major players of the murder.
- After significant investigation work, the investigators determined that this shooting was indeed a gang "drive by" shooting whereby, James Ramos' residence was mistakenly identified by the suspects. Investigators identified Anne Marie Harrison as the driver of the vehicle and Juan Tovar as the person who shot James Ramos and arrested both in July of 2005.
- Since the last reward offer by the Board expired on December 14, 2004, prior to the informant filing a claim for the reward money, the Board reinstated the reward on July 26, 2005. However, due to an oversight and lengthy trial, the individual did not file a claim for the reward money. Therefore, another reinstatement was approved by your Board on February 7, 2006 to allow the Sheriff's Department to file a claim on behalf of the individual.

- On January 9, 2006, the trial of Anne Marie Harrison and Juan Tovar began. On January 12, 2006, both suspects were convicted for their involvement in this crime. Juan Tovar was sentenced on February 1, 2006 to 50 years to life in State prison for first degree murder. Anne Marie Harrison is scheduled for sentencing at the end of March 2006, and in all likelihood, will receive 20 years to life in State prison.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Approval of the above recommendation supports the County Strategic Goal of Service Excellence. Publication in local newspapers and posting of reward notices on the County website may encourage persons to provide information to law enforcement which could lead to the arrest and conviction of the individuals who commit crimes, thereby improving the quality of life to residents of Los Angeles County by removing such individuals from the community.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The Board of Supervisors established a \$10,000 reward fund. Pursuant to provisions in the County Code, the reward is to be paid from the Board of Supervisors' discretionary funds in equal shares of \$2,000 from each member's account.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The action recommended is in compliance with the County Code, Title 4 - Revenue and Finance relating to rewards; and specifically Section 4.50.010B which states, "conviction of the person or persons responsible for the crime shall be required for payment of a reward unless the Board of Supervisors makes a finding of impossibility of conviction due to the death or incapacity of such person or persons."

The attached notice was published in the San Gabriel Valley Tribune. In addition, the reward notice was posted on the Board of Supervisors' web site; and the Sheriff's Department was provided a copy of the notice. The original filing period to submit a claim to the Executive Office for the reward money originally expired on September 3, 2004 and was extended by Board Order No. 6 of June 29, 2004, Board Order No. 7 of October 5, 2004, Board Order No. 105-D of December 14, 2004 and reinstated by Board Order No. 15 of July 26, 2005 and again by Board Order No. 7 of February 7, 2005 to allow the Sheriff to file a claim on behalf of the informant.

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IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There is no impact on current County Services.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Joanne Sturges". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

JOANNE STURGES
ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Attachment

R:\Reward Letters\Reward Letter regarding James Ramos.dot

c: District Attorney
Sheriff
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
County Counsel

**NOTICE OF \$10,000 REWARD
OFFERED BY THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles has reinstated the \$10,000 reward offered for the purpose of allowing the individual who offered information which led to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the murder of James Ramos, who was gunned down outside his Hacienda Heights home in the 16300 block of Canelones Drive on Tuesday, March 2, 2004 at approximately 3:15 a.m., to file a claim for the reward.

Any person having any information related to this crime is requested to call Detective Scott Lusk at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Homicide Bureau at (323) 890-5500 and refer to Report No. 004-03697-1471-011.

The terms of the reward provide that:

- The information given that leads to the determination of the identity, the apprehension and conviction of any person or persons must be given no later than May 8, 2006. All reward claims must be in writing and shall be received no later than July 7, 2006.
- The total County payment of any and all rewards shall in no event exceed \$10,000 and no claim shall be paid prior to conviction unless the Board of Supervisors makes a finding of impossibility of conviction due to the death or incapacity of the person or persons responsible for the crime or crimes.
- The County reward may be apportioned between various persons and/or paid for the conviction of various persons as the circumstances fairly dictate.

Any claims for the reward funds should be filed no later than July 7, 2006 with the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors, 500 West Temple Street, Room 383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Los Angeles, California 90012, Attention: James Ramos Reward Fund. For further information, please call (213) 974-1579.

Si no entiende esta noticia o si necesita mas informacion, favor de llamar a este numero (213) 974-1579.

VIOLET VARONA-LUKENS
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES